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ABSTRACT

In 1986, an outcomes study was conducted of 1,731 former students of the Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) who had matriculated at Temple University between fall 1979 and fall 1985. Two years after this initial tracking study, Temple provided updated information on CCP transfer student retention at the university as of fall 1988. Students were categorized by one of five areas of study at CCP: general studies; transfer-related curricula; business curricula; allied health curricula; and community service credit students. Temple retention outcomes were also compared for CCP graduates, non-graduates with 24 or more credits, and non-graduates with fewer than 24 credits. Study findings included the following: (1) the largest proportion of transfer students (43%) were enrolled in general studies curriculum at CCP, while allied health students (2.4%) made up the lowest transfer percentage; (2) former CCP students' graduation rates from Temple had increased by 12.2% from 1986 to 36.2% in 1988; (3) students who had been in transfer-related curricula at CCP had the highest graduation rates (43.1%) from Temple; (4) CCP graduates and CCP students who left CCP with 24+ credits had nearly identical Temple graduation rates (36.8% and 37.9% respectively); and (5) nearly three-quarters of the former CCP students experienced positive retention and/or graduation outcomes at Temple. (GFW)

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CCP Transfer Student Retention Patterns at Temple

- An Updated Report -

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Jane Grosset
Institutional Research
Report #48

May, 1990

COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

Introduction

Several years ago, a cooperative data exchange was initiated between Community College of Philadelphia (CCP) and Temple University, the most popular transfer college with CCP students. These efforts resulted in the publication of several Institutional Research papers which reported on former CCP student outcomes at Temple University as of the Fall 1986 semester.

Two years after this initial student tracking, Temple provided updated outcome information for the identified cohort. The updated information included CCP transfer student retention status at Temple as of the Fall, 1988 semester. Four retention categories were examined; 1) graduates of Temple, 2) students enrolled at Temple as of Fall 1988, 3) Temple non-graduates who departed Temple with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better, and 4) Temple non-graduates who departed Temple with a cumulative GPA below 2.0.

The study sample of 1731 students who were tracked matriculated at Temple between Fall 1979 and Fall 1985, so that for most of them sufficient time has elapsed for the measurement of reliable student outcomes such as Temple graduation.

In the originally published IR Reports, the outcome information was disaggregated for several student subgroups defined by CCP-related variables. Two of these variables, CCP curricular cluster and CCP persistence status, were used to segment the studied cohort for analysis of the updated outcomes which appear in this report.

Five CCP program cluster categories were included in subsequent analyses; 1) General Studies, 2) Transfer-related curricula[a], 3) Business curricula and other career-related non-Allied Health programs[b], 4) Allied Health curricula, and 5) Community Services credit students. CCP exiting curricula was used to place students into one of the five categories.

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a) Transfer-related curricula: Computer Science, Associate in Arts, Art-Photography Option, Music, Pre-Education, Art, Associate in Science, Secretarial Science-Business Education, and Engineering Science.

b) Other career-related non-Allied Health programs: Architectural Technology, Electronics Engineering-Communication, Electronics Engineering-Biomedical, Electronics Engineering Cert., Fire Science Cert., Technical Drafting, Construction Technical Fire Science, Electrons Engineering Digital, Chemical Technical Automotive Technical Electronic Engineering Technical Justice, Mental Health/Social Service, Alcohol/Drug, Social Gerontology, Public Management, Justice Cert., Early Childhood Ed., Photography, Photography Lab Technical, Sign Language, Library Technical and Interpreter Ed.

CCP persistence status included three categories; 1) CCP graduates, 2) non-graduates of CCP who completed 24 or more CCP College credits before departing CCP, and 3) non-graduates of CCP who completed fewer than 24 CCP credits before departing CCP.

The distributions associated with these two variables appear in the pie charts labeled Figures 1 and 2. The largest proportion of transfer students (42.9%) were enrolled in the General Studies curriculum in the semester preceding their departure from CCP. Former CCP students in the Business division curricula and non-Allied Health career programs formed another sizable category (36.3%). Students enrolled in CCP Transfer-related, non-General Studies programs comprised 13.4% of the studied cohort. Much smaller percentages of Community Services (3.0%) and Allied Health (2.4%) students were represented in the sample.

In the cohort, nearly equal numbers of students either graduated from CCP (36.9%) prior to transferring to Temple or earned over 23 CCP credits prior to transfer (40.1%). Twenty three percent (23.0%) transferred to Temple after earning fewer than 24 CCP credits.

Temple Retention Outcomes-Curricula Cluster Analyses

The bar chart in Figure 3 contains Temple retention

Figure 1

Temple Enrollment by Last CCP Curricular Cluster

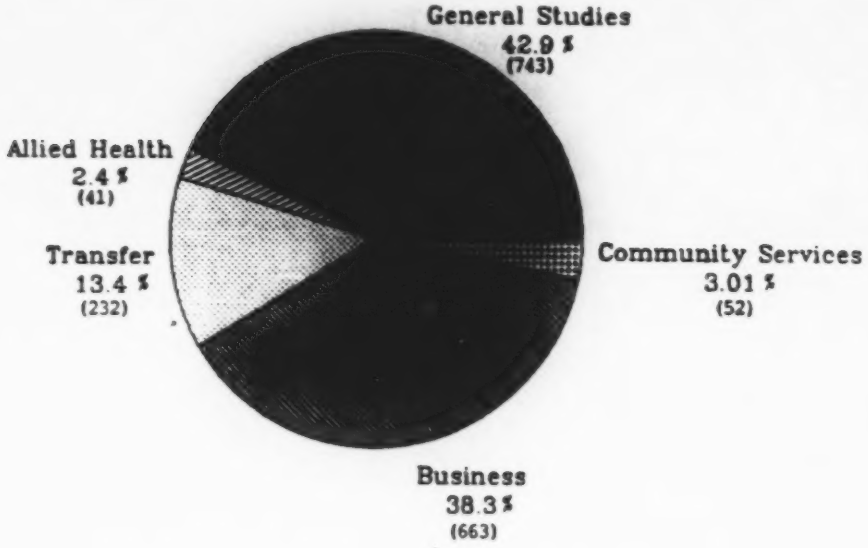
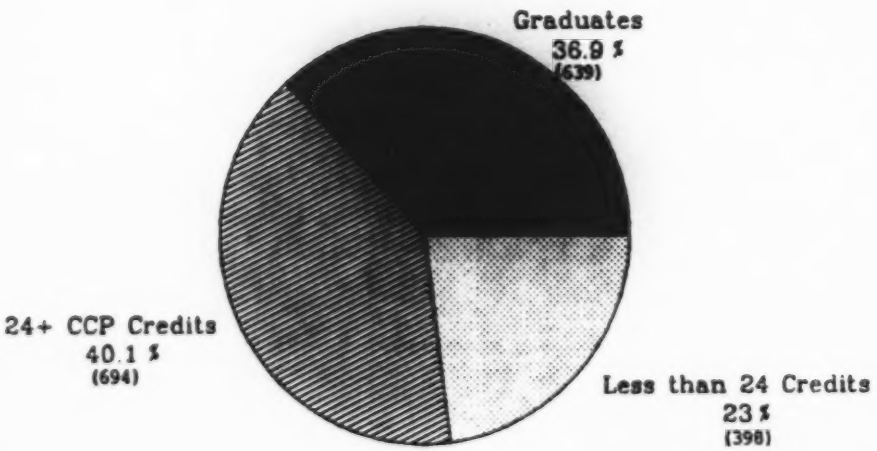


Figure 2

Temple Enrollment by CCP Persistence Status



3a.

information for the entire CCP transfer cohort. The solid bars in this graph represent the percentage of CCP transfer students who met the criteria defined by the four Temple retention categories as of the Fall 1986 semester. The striped bars represent the updated student classifications, as of Fall 1988.

Compared to Fall 1986, 19% fewer of the tracked student cohort were enrolled at Temple as of the Fall 1988 semester (Figure 3). The additional students who departed Temple between the two studied points in time represented in this figure were assimilated into one of the three remaining Temple outcome categories represented in the chart. Between Fall 1986 and Fall 1988 the percentage of tracked students who earned a degree at Temple increased by 12.2% to an overall graduation rate of 36.2%. An additional 2.6% of the students included in the sample departed Temple in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 at time of departure), while 4.3% additional students left with a cumulative GPA below 2.0 .

This general distributional pattern of changes in Temple outcomes is true for most of the curricular clusters. Temple graduation rates associated with former General Studies students increased by 11.7% to 37.6% between Fall 1986 and Fall 1988 (Figure 4). Former CCP students in Transfer-related curricula had the highest overall Temple graduation

Figure 3

Temple Retention Status For CCP Transfer Students

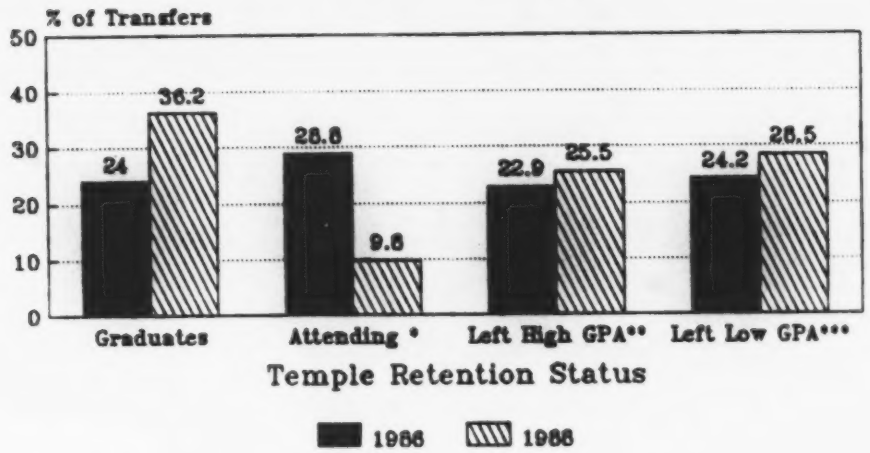
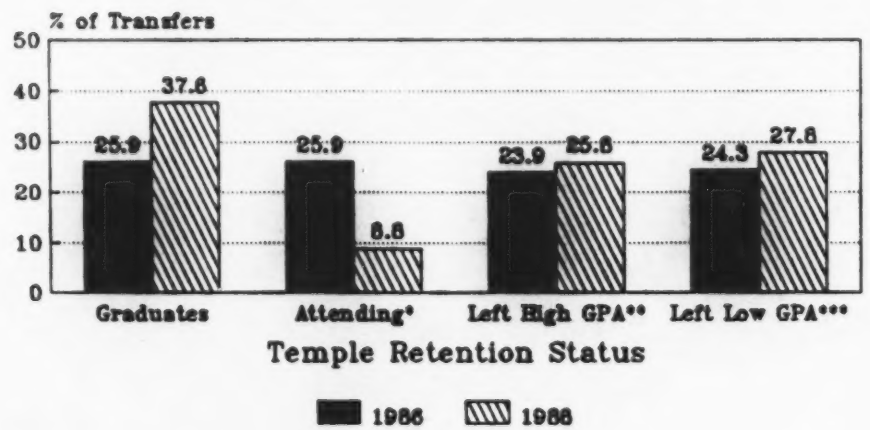


Figure 4

Temple Retention Status For CCP Transfer Students General Studies Curriculum



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

4a

rate, 43.1%, an increase of 17.2% since Fall 1986 (Figure 6) while the graduation rate increase associated with students who were enrolled in CCP Business curricula and other non-Allied Health career-related programs increased by 11.1% to 32.7% as of Fall 1988 (Figure 5). Graduation rate for students in the Allied Health subcategory increased to 25% (Figure 8).

While the percentage increase in former Community Services students who graduated from Temple as of Fall 1988 was comparable to graduation rate increases associated with the other curricular clusters, the rate of former Community Services students leaving Temple with good academic standing actually decreased by 5.2% (Figure 7). Although the overall level of students leaving with low GPA's as of Fall 1988 was lower for Community Services students (13.2%) than students in the other curricular clusters, the increase since Fall 1986 is proportionally larger than the increase for other curricular groups.

Temple Retention Outcomes-CCP Persistence Analyses

Fall 1986 and Fall 1988 Temple graduation rates across subgroups of former students defined by CCP persistence

categories are interesting to note (Figures 9 thru 11). As of Fall 1986, CCP graduates were only slightly more likely to graduate from Temple (26.3%) than were CCP non-graduates who earned fewer than 24 credits prior to transfer (24.2%). The lowest Temple graduation rates as of Fall 1986 were associated with CCP non-graduates who earned 24+ credits before transferring (19.8%).

Based on the graduation rates as of Fall 1988, this pattern changes. Temple graduation rates associated with CCP graduates and students who left with 24+ credits were nearly identical, 36.8% and 37.9% respectively. Temple graduation rates were slightly lower (32.4%) for students who left CCP with fewer than 24 credits.

As of Fall 1988, the percentage of students leaving Temple with low GPA's was nearly identical across the three student subgroups defined by CCP persistence and, as expected, students who transferred with fewer CCP credits were more likely to still be attending Temple as of Fall 1988.

Figure 5

Temple Retention Status For
CCP Transfer Students
Transfer-Related Curricula

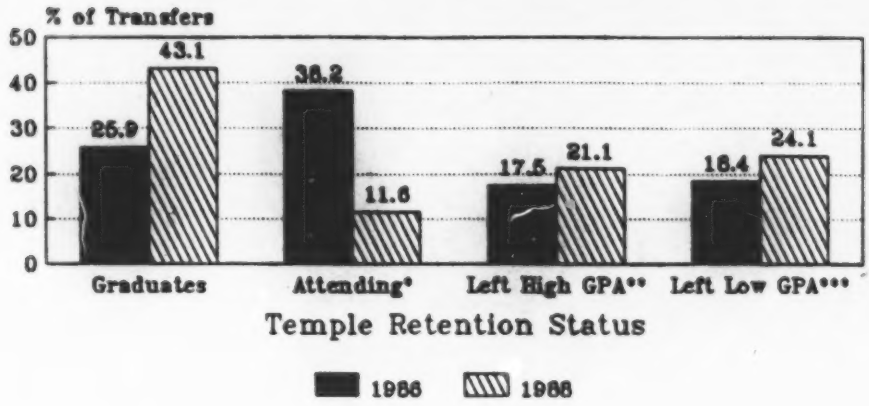
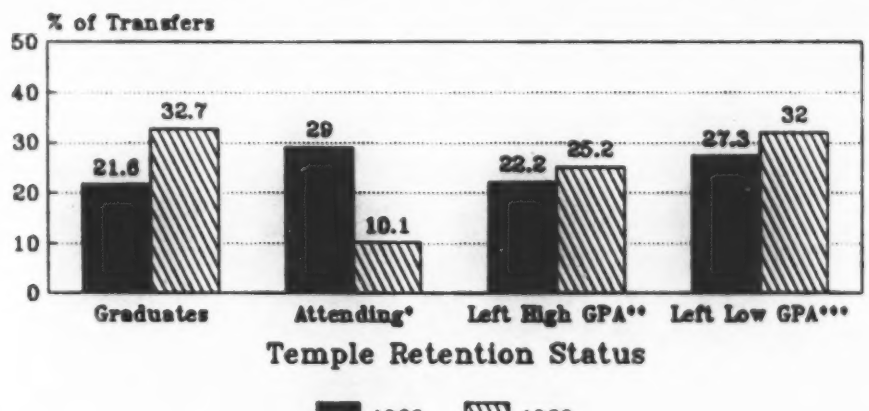


Figure 6

Temple Retention Status For
CCP Transfer Students
Business/Other Career Related Curricula



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

6a.

Figure 7

Temple Retention Status For
CCP Transfer Students
Community Services Currriculum

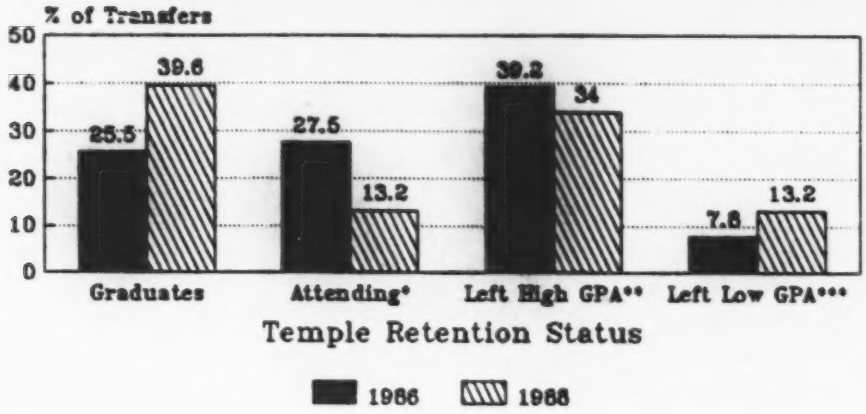
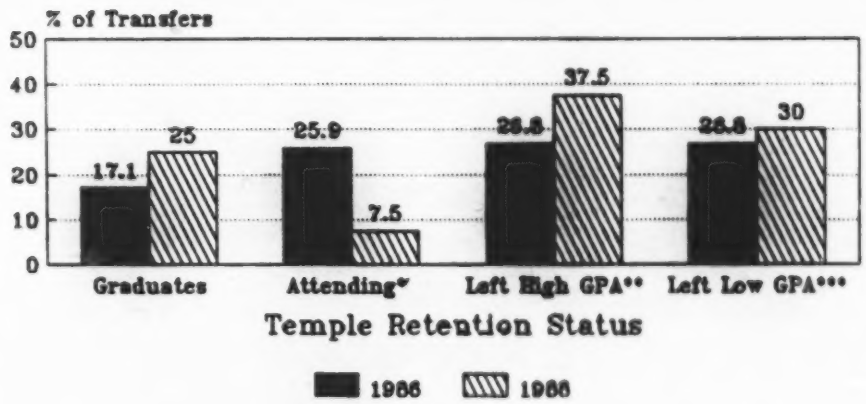


Figure 8

Temple Retention Status For
CCP Transfer Students
Allied Health Curricula



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

Figure 9

Temple Retention Status For CCP Graduates

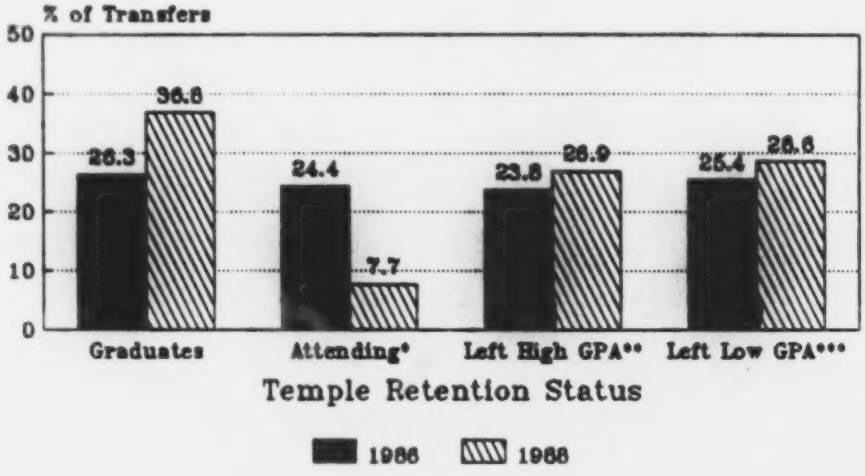
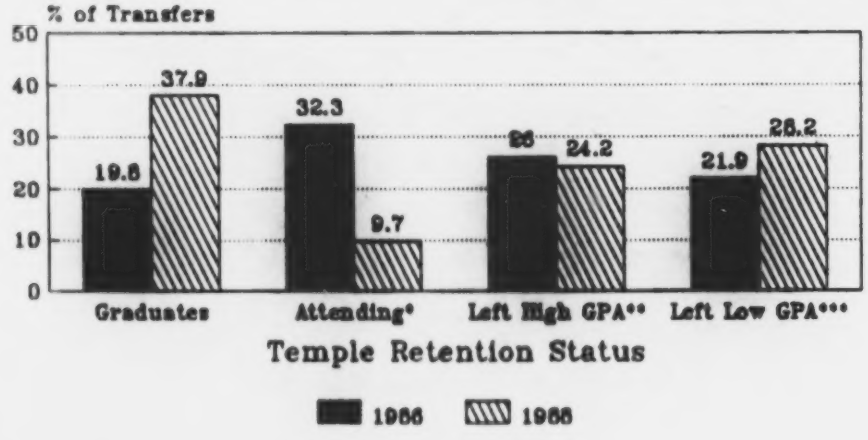


Figure 10

Temple Retention Status For Non-Graduate Who Earned 24 Or More Credits At CCP Prior to Transfer

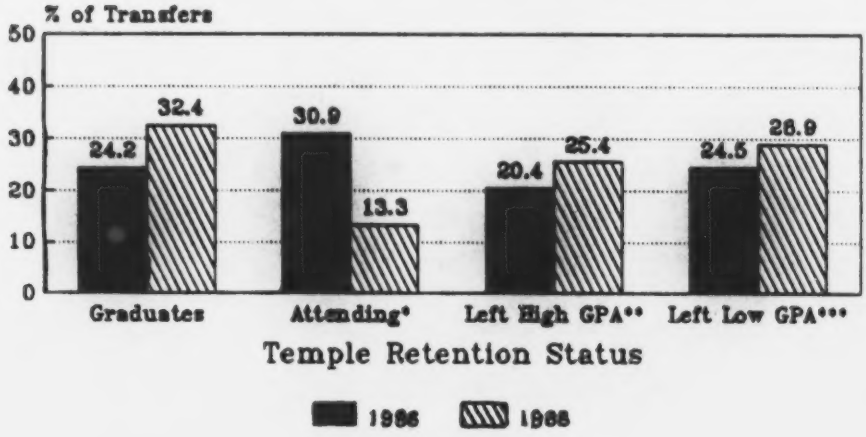


*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

6c.

Figure 11

Temple Retention Status For CCP Non-Graduates Who Earned Fewer Than 24 Credits At CCP Prior To Transfer



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

6d.

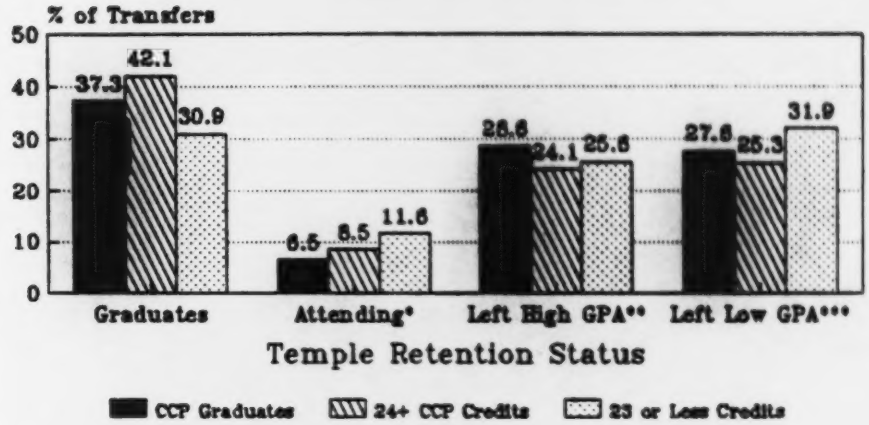
Temple Retention Outcomes-CCP Persistence Categories In Curricular Clusters

Figures 12 through 14 contain bar charts representing the joint distribution of the Fall 1988 Temple retention categories and the CCP persistence categories within curricular clusters. Bar charts for Community Services and Allied Health curricular categories are not provided given the resulting small student numbers at this level of detailed analysis.

The patterns associated with students in Transfer-related curricula are the most intuitively appealing (Figure 13). For this group, there was a steady increase in the percentage of students in the positive outcome categories (graduates, attending, left high GPA) as the level of CCP persistence increased (Figure 11). While only 25% of these students who transferred with fewer than 24 CCP credits had earned a Temple degree by Fall 1988, 42.6% of the students who earned 24+ CCP credits graduated and 47.8% of CCP graduates had earned a Temple degree. Former CCP students who were enrolled in Transfer-related curricula were also less likely to leave Temple in poor academic standing the longer they persisted at CCP.

Figure 12

Temple Retention Status By CCP Retention Status General Studies Curriculum



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative GPA Below 2.0

7a.

Figure 13

Temple Retention Status By CCP Retention Status Transfer-Related Curricula

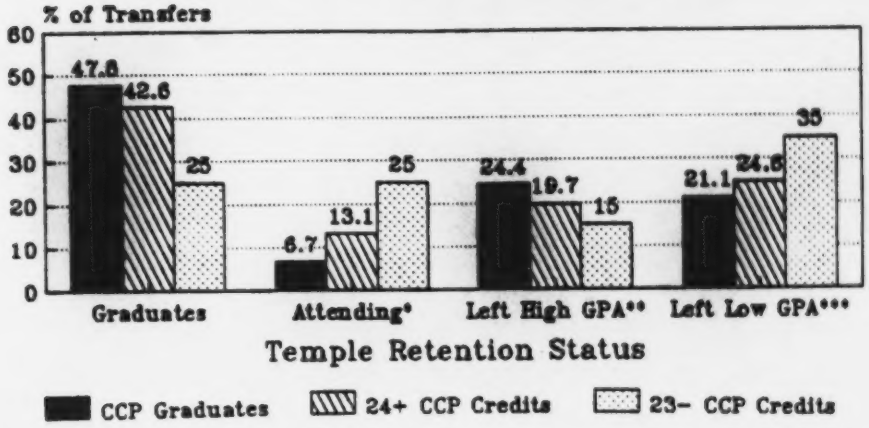
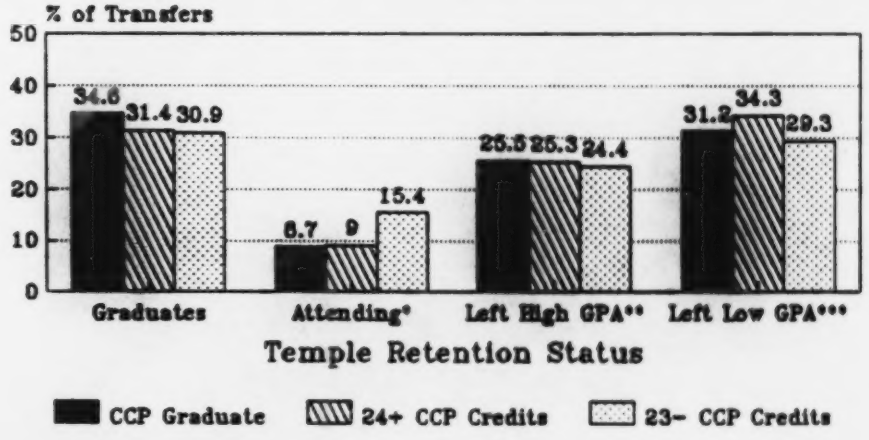


Figure 14

Temple Retention Status By CCP Retention Status Business/Other Career Related Curricula



*Attending as of Spr. 1986 or Spr. 1988
**Temple Cumulative GPA 2.0 or Above
***Temple Cumulative Below 2.0

To a lesser extent, these same patterns were true for former CCP students who were enrolled in Business and other non-Allied Health career-related curricula (Figure 14). The exception to this pattern for this group of students was associated with students who left Temple with low GPA's. Students who were persistent at CCP for fewer credit hours (less than 24) were least likely to fall into this category.

The information related to former General Studies students (Figure 12) indicates that student persistence at CCP was generally associated with more positive Temple retention outcomes. CCP General Studies non-graduates who transferred with 24+ credits out performed General Studies graduates by a small margin.

Summary

An examination of the longer-term retention outcomes reviewed in this report indicates that nearly three-quarters of the former CCP students who transfer to Temple continue to experience positive outcomes.

After two years, considerably fewer students remain enrolled at Temple. The additional students who departed Temple between Fall 1986 and Fall 1988 were assimilated into one of three remaining Temple retention outcome categories.

Of these three retention categories, the largest increase was in the number of Temple graduates. The percentage increase in students leaving Temple prior to graduation with high or low Temple GPA's were small and nearly identical.

A large percentage of students in CCP career-related programs were included in the studied cohort. In general these students experienced less positive Temple outcomes than students in CCP transfer-related curricula.

In terms of negative Temple retention outcomes, there does not appear to be a direct association with CCP persistence, since the percentage of Temple non-graduates who leave with a GPA below 2.0 is virtually the same across the three CCP persistence categories. While the lowest Fall 1988 Temple graduation rates were associated with CCP non-graduates who earned less than 24 CCP credits prior to transfer, a larger percentage of these students remained enrolled at Temple. In time, the graduation rates for this group may catch up with the two other CCP persistence categories.

Within curricular clusters, the strongest positive relationship between student persistence at CCP and eventual Temple retention outcomes was associated with students who were enrolled in CCP transfer-related programs. To a lesser degree, this was also true of former CCP/Business and other,

non-Allied Health career-related students. Former General Studies non-graduates who earned 24+ CCP credits prior to transfer performed slightly better than General Studies graduates or General Studies students with fewer than 24 CCP credits.

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